

Kasey Callen of Waukegan was in Washington this week and spoke at a briefing regarding childhood cancer and funding for cancer research.

Kasey, 19, is a childhood cancer survivor. At the age of five he was diagnosed with an astrocytoma mid-brain tumor. After undergoing extensive brain surgery and receiving a lifetime worth of radiation, Kasey slipped into a coma and then suffered a stroke. Kasey's spirit remains strong and he is an inspiration to all families dealing with childhood cancer.

I was also lucky enough to meet with Kasey personally and discuss what his life has been like since his diagnosis with cancer and recovery. He is a high school graduate and has a goal of attending college. Kasey told me that he enjoys science and math and wants to continue to fight to help those living with cancer.

Kasey and his mother, Sandra, also had the opportunity to attend the Joint Meeting of Congress and see his Excellency Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister of Ireland.

I would like to thank Kasey for coming to Congress and giving us all a first-hand view of what it means to be childhood cancer survivor.



Kasey and Sandra Callen with Congressman Kirk